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**U.S. COURT SENTENCES MAN TO TEN YEARS
IN JAIL ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JORGE L. PABON-CRUZ, a/k/a "BigThing," a/k/a "George," was sentenced late Monday by United States District Judge GERARD E. LYNCH to ten years in prison following his conviction in October 2002 on two child pornography-related counts.

PABON-CRUZ was convicted by a jury following a one-week trial before Judge LYNCH in Manhattan federal court. This was the first jury trial nationwide under the federal statute prohibiting advertising for the exchange of child pornography. That charge carries a ten-year mandatory minimum term of years in prison. PABON-CRUZ was convicted of one count of advertising for the receipt, exchange, and distribution of child pornography and one count of distribution of child pornography.

The Government's evidence at trial established that

from September 2001 through December 2001, PABON-CRUZ, using the nickname "BigThing," operated a sophisticated image exchange device - called a file server or "F-Server" - which facilitated the exchange of thousands of pictures of the sexual abuse of children over the internet.

The evidence at trial established that PABON-CRUZ repeatedly advertised his file server in two internet chat rooms devoted to the rape of children. These chat rooms were entitled "preteenrapesex" and "preteen666." The advertisement provided a password which allowed others in the chat rooms to access PABON-CRUZ's file server in order to trade child pornography pictures. The advertisement also detailed the various categories of pictures that PABON-CRUZ was offering to trade, categories such as "Preteen," "black," "asian," "redheads," "Celebrities," "Teens," "Animal," "Anime," "Ethnic [sic]," and "Indian." At various times, PABON-CRUZ's advertisement stated "So enter and find whatever you need [or like]" and "NEW, ORGANIZED AND FINE STUFF HERE."

The evidence at trial established that over the three month period between September and December 2001, PABON-CRUZ distributed approximately 8,000 pictures through his file server, which was visited by over 2,800 people.

The evidence at trial also established that PABON-CRUZ distributed a number of child pornography pictures to an

undercover law enforcement officer who was investigating PABON-CRUZ's file server.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the United States Secret Service, the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force, the Rockland County Sheriff's Office, and the New York State Police.

PABON-CRUZ, 19, lived in Puerto Rico until his arrest in December 2001.

Assistant United States Attorney ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL is in charge of the prosecution.

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